

# TRAINING THE FORCE

## Preface

Training prepares soldiers, leaders, and units to fight and win in combat—the Army’s basic mission. “Training the Force” is the Army’s standardized training doctrine applicable throughout the force. It provides the necessary guidelines on how to plan, execute, and assess training at all levels. The manual provides authoritative foundations for individual, leader, and unit training. Individual training must develop soldiers who are proficient in battlefield skills, disciplined, physically tough, and highly motivated. Leader training is an imperative for every echelon; it is an investment in the Army of today and tomorrow. Unit training must prepare our forces for the rigors of the battlefield.

The Army must be trained and ready in peacetime to *deter* war, to *fight* and *control* wars that do start, and to *terminate* wars on terms favorable to US and allied interests. The complex world environment and the sophisticated military capabilities of potential adversaries, to include the Soviet Union, its allies, and a number of well-armed developing nations, have removed the time buffer the United States previously enjoyed that allowed it to mobilize and train to an adequate level of readiness before engaging in combat operations. As recent events have illustrated, our nation’s ability to deter attack or act decisively to contain and de-escalate a crisis demands an essentially instantaneous transition from peace to war preparedness. This requires that all leaders in the Army understand, attain, sustain, and enforce high standards of combat readiness through tough, realistic multi-echelon combined arms training designed to challenge and develop individuals, leaders, and units.

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The key to fighting and winning is an understanding of “how we train to fight” at every echelon. Training programs must result in demonstrated tactical and technical competence, confidence, and initiative in our soldiers and their leaders. This manual has application for leaders at all levels and for every type organization. The principal focus is on Active and Reserve battalion equivalent and higher level commanders, their command sergeants major, and staffs. Implied throughout the manual is recognition of the extremely important role of junior leaders in training and providing feedback. The role of our noncommissioned officers in ensuring that individual soldiers in their units attain the required standards of proficiency through training, and in linking the individual’s performance with the unit’s training plans, is of fundamental importance.

Every senior leader is expected to know, understand, and apply the concepts in this manual. It reflects the lessons learned since the introduction of FC 25-100 in August 1985 and has incorporated recommendations and comments from the Army in the field.

Training will remain the Army’s top priority because it is the cornerstone of combat readiness!



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Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.